

AUG 1944

37



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1943

J. W. INNES, M.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

WHITEHAVEN

Printed by The Whitehaven News, Ltd., 148, Queen Street

1944

HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE.

Chairman Councillor CLAYTON.

Vice-Chairman Alderman WILKINSON.

The Mayor (Councillor H. HARRISON).

Aldermen—HINDE and STEPHENSON.

Councillors—BROWNE, DICK, KNIPE, and MCSHERRY.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE.

Chairman Councillor CLAYTON.

Vice-Chairman Alderman WILKINSON.

The Members of the Health and Housing Committee with
Mesdames EVANS, JOHNSON, and WIGNALL.

REPRESENTATIVES ON THE WEST CUMBERLAND JOINT HOSPITAL BOARD.

Councillor CLAYTON—Chairman of the Board.

Alderman STEPHENSON.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

J. W. INNES, M.A., M.B.,
Ch.B., D.P.H. *Medical Officer of Health*

J. L. HUNTER, M.B., Ch.B., *Deputy Medical Officer of*
D.P.H. *Health (on Military Service).*

*ALLAN S. MOODIE, M.B., *Assistant Medical Officer of*
Ch.B., D.P.H. *Health and School Medical*
Officer.

(resigned 5-3-43).

*O. H. SIUNG, M.B., Ch.B., (appointed 22-3-43).
D.P.H. (resigned 30-11-43).

G. B. HOPKIN, L.D.S., H.D.D., *Dental Officer.*
R.C.S. (Edin.).

J. F. LORD, C.R.S.I. *Sanitary Inspector.*

HEALTH DEPARTMENT—*Continued.*

J. H. RILEY, C.R.S.I.	...	...	...	<i>Additional Sanitary Inspector</i> (resigned 28-2-43).
A. A. BELDON, C.R.S.I.	...	...	...	<i>Additional Sanitary Inspector</i> (appointed 1-3-43).
Miss BERRY	...	...	...	<i>Health Visitor and School Nurse.</i>
Miss LODGE	...	...	...	Do.
Miss HODGSON	...	...	...	Do.
*Mrs. MESSENGER	...	...	...	Do.
Miss WRIGHT	...	...	...	Do. (appointed 1-1-43).

The above are fully trained Nurses, and hold the C.M.B. Certificate, and the Health Visitors' Certificate.

Miss FIELD, C.M.B.	...	...	...	<i>Dental Attendant.</i>
J. WEAR, C.R.S.I.	...	...	...	<i>Clerk (on Military Service).</i>
Miss DAVIDSON	...	...	...	<i>Clerk-Typist.</i>
*Mrs. ROWE	...	...	...	Do.
*Miss G. BANKS	...	...	...	Do.
*Miss C. BANKS, S.R.N.	...	...	...	<i>Matron War-time Nursery.</i>
Mrs. S. KENDAL, S.R.N.	...	...	...	<i>Housing Welfare Officer.</i>
*—Temporary War Appointment.				

PART TIME.

A. W. PATTON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.O.M.S.	...	...	...	<i>Ophthalmic Surgeon.</i> (resigned March, 1943).
R. J. L. FRASER, M.D., D.O.M.S.	...	...	...	Do. (appointed June, 1943).
J. STEVEN FAULDS, M.D., F.R.F.P.S.	...	...	...	<i>Bacteriologist, Cumberland Laboratory.</i>
R. S. VENTERS, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S.	...	...	...	<i>Consultant Ear, Nose and Throat.</i>
G. P. MILNE, M.B., Ch.B., D.C.O.G.	...	...	...	<i>Consultant Gynaecologist.</i>
C. J. H. STOCK, B.Sc., F.I.C.	...	...	...	<i>Analyst.</i>
W. LITT, M.R.C.V.S.	...	...	...	<i>Veterinary Inspector.</i>

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
81, LOWTHER STREET,
WHITEHAVEN.

26th May, 1944.

*To His Worship the Mayor,
The Aldermen and Councillors,
Borough of Whitehaven.*

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report as your Medical Officer of Health for the year 1943.

The Report has again had to be kept brief, but the main features are retained to preserve as much continuity of record as possible.

The main question at present is—How have the general health and well-being of the community stood up to war stresses and strains? The statistics for the year show that from that point of view the year was a highly satisfactory one.

The General Death-Rate was a little higher as compared with the previous year—being increased from 12.0 per 1,000 of population to 12.4, but this increase is slightly less than the increase throughout the whole country which rose from 11.6 to 12.1. On the other hand, the Birth Rate rose from 18.8 to 19.1, whilst the Infantile Mortality Rate improved from 65 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1942, to 49 in 1943, which is the best rate ever recorded for Whitehaven. Deaths from Tuberculosis also again showed an improvement, the rate being reduced from 0.96 per 1,000 of population in 1942, to 0.75, which, with the single exception of the figure for 1934, which was 0.70, is the lowest rate recorded for Whitehaven. This reduction, too, has taken place when the rate for the country as a whole is tending slightly to rise.

As regards notifiable Infectious Diseases, with the exception of a rather extensive outbreak of Measles, the Borough enjoyed remarkable immunity. Leaving Tuberculosis and Pneumonia aside, the only deaths from notifiable diseases were three from Measles and one from Whooping Cough. For the seventh consecutive year there was not a death from Diphtheria. There were in fact only two confirmed cases for the year, and this disease has been almost entirely absent from the community for the past five years, a happy position which is undoubtedly attributable to the immunisation campaign which has been kept going in this area since 1936.

From the above data, it can safely be assumed that the general standard of health is as high as—if not higher than—it has ever been—a most satisfactory position in the fifth year of war.

Frequent changes in medical personnel have constituted a very distinct handicap and have tended to upset the continuity of the services provided, but every effort has been made to keep these going on the pre-war standard.

The War-time Nursery established in the latter part of 1942 has been carried on throughout the year with great benefit to the children who have attended, but about twice as many could be accommodated. It is unfortunate that mothers have not taken greater advantage of such a valuable adjunct to the Health Services.

The service that has really suffered during the war years has been the provision and improvement of housing, and very considerable arrears are inevitably accumulating in that connection. Should, however, the plans which the appropriate Committee has in mind come to maturity, housing will be tackled in the future in a bigger and bolder way than ever before.

I wish to express my indebtedness to the members of my staff for their continued loyalty of effort to maintain the efficiency of the Department; to the members of other departments who have invariably given all help and co-operation; and to the Chairman and Members of the Committees concerned for their continued support and encouragement.

I am, Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. W. INNES,

Medical Officer of Health.

A.—STATISTICAL SUMMARY.

I.—GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of Borough in acres	...	...	...	...	4,315
Registrar General's estimate of resident population, (mid year, 1943)	...	...	...	...	22,490
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1943) according to Rate Books	...	...	...	...	6,054
Rateable Value (1st April, 1943)	...	...	...	...	£102,148
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	£387

EXTRACTS FROM
VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

BIRTHS.		<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Live Births—Legitimate	...	199	189	388
—Illegitimate	...	20	21	41
	Total ...	219	210	429

Birth Rate per 1,000 of Population 19.1

		<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Still Births—Legitimate	...	6	7	13
—Illegitimate	...	1	2	3
	Total ...	7	9	16

Rate per 1,000 total births 36.0

DEATHS.		<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Deaths (all ages)	...	131	147	278
Death Rate per 1,000 of Population	...	...	12.4	

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

		<i>Deaths.</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000 (Live & Still) Births.</i>
From Sepsis	...	1	2.25
From other causes	...	nil	nil
	Total ...	1	2.25

Death rate of Infants Under One Year of Age.

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	49
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births				46
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births				73

Deaths from

Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	31
Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	3
Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	1
Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	...	...	...	...	4

BIRTHS.

Birth Rate per 1,000 of Population	...	...	19.1
„ „ England and Wales	...	...	16.5
„ „ 126 Great Towns	...	...	18.6
„ „ 148 Smaller Towns (population 25,000—50,000)	...	...	19.4
„ „ London Ad. County	...	...	15.8
„ „ County of Cumberland	...	...	17.4

The number of live births registered during the year was 429, 219 males and 210 females, of whom 20 males and 21 females were illegitimate. The Birth Rate was 19.1 per thousand of estimated resident population, the rate being 0.3 more than the rate for 1942, whereas the rate for the country as a whole showed an increase of 0.7.

DEATHS.

Death Rate per 1,000 of Population	...	...	12.4
„ „ England and Wales	...	...	12.1
„ „ 126 Great Towns	...	...	14.2
„ „ 148 Smaller Towns	...	...	12.7
„ „ London	...	...	15.0
„ „ County of Cumberland	...	...	12.3

The number of deaths of residents belonging to the Borough, after making allowance for inward and outward transfers, was 278, viz., 131 males and 147 females, which gives a Death Rate of 12.4 per thousand.

The actual number of deaths was 2 more than in the previous year, and the Death Rate 0.4 more as compared with a rise in the Death Rate for the country as a whole of 0.5.

The chief causes of death during the year were Diseases of Heart and Circulatory System 88, Cancer 31, Respiratory Diseases, Pneumonia, Bronchitis, etc., 28, and Tuberculosis 17.

The ages of all cases who died during 1943 and the cause of death are shown in the following Tables:—

AGE AT DEATH OF ALL CASES, WHITEHAVEN BOROUGH, 1943.

Age Groups	Under 1 year	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 25	25 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 55	55 to 65	Over 65	Total
Males ...	14	1	—	—	—	4	1	4	1	6	12	14	27	47	131
Females ...	7	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	6	5	6	14	28	77	147

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1943.

Causes of Death.	Males.	Females.
All causes	131	147
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ...	—	—
Measles	2	1
Scarlet Fever	—	—
Whooping Cough	1	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Influenza	3	5
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	4	10
Other Tuberculous Disease	1	2
Syphilis	1	—
Cancer	15	16
Diabetes	1	1
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c.	15	24
Heart Disease	14	27
Other Circulatory Diseases	3	5
Bronchitis	6	3
Pneumonia (all forms)	7	8
Other Respiratory Diseases	3	1
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ...	2	1
Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	2	2
Appendicitis	1	3
Other Digestive Diseases	3	5
Nephritis	—	4
Puerperal Sepsis	—	1
Other Maternal Causes	—	—
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, &c. ...	4	1
Road Traffic Accidents	2	—
Other Violence	11	4
Suicide	—	1
All Other Causes	29	22

MATERNAL DEATHS.

One Maternal Death took place within the year.

The rate per 1,000 total births as compared with the corresponding rates for the whole country were:—

	<i>No. of Deaths.</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000 Total Births.</i>	<i>England and Wales.</i>
From Sepsis ...	1	2.25	0.73
From other causes	—	—	1.56
	—	—	—
Total	1	2.25	2.29
	—	—	—

*No. of
Notifications.*

Notifications of Puerperal Pyrexia ...	10	22.47	11.68
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INFANTILE DEATHS.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age per thousand live births:—

Legitimate 46, Illegitimate 73.	Total 49.
England and Wales	49
126 Great Towns	58
148 Smaller Towns	46
London	58
County of Cumberland	48

The number of deaths of children under one year of age during 1943 was 21, viz., 14 males and 7 females, which gives an Infantile Mortality Rate of 49 per 1,000 registered live births.

This rate shows an improvement of 16 compared with that for the previous year, and is the best rate ever recorded for Whitehaven, the previous low record being 56 in 1937. That this figure should have been reached in the fifth year of war is a testimony to the general standard of health of the community.

The chief causes of the Infantile Deaths were Bronchitis and Pneumonia which accounted for 6 of the 21 deaths, Prematurity and Congenital Defects which accounted for 5, and Enteritis which accounted for 4. Seven or 33% of the deaths occurred in the neo-natal period, that is within the first month of life. The Mortality Rates for Male and Female Infants respectively were 64 and 33.

Births, Infantile Deaths, and Infantile Mortality Rates by wards are shown in the following table.

	Bransty	Harbour	Kells	Sandwith	Central	Hensingham	Totals
Registered Births	67	51	73	122	54	62	429
Infantile Deaths	4	4	2	7	1	3	21
Infantile Mortality Rate	60	78	27	57	37	48	49

INFANTILE DEATHS SHOWN BY AGES AND CAUSE OF DEATH, 1943.

The causes and age at death are shown in the accompanying Table:—

CAUSE OF DEATH.	AGE IN WEEKS.				AGE IN MONTHS						Total Deaths.
	Under 1	1—2	2—3	3—4	Under 1 M'th	1—2	2—3	3—6	6—9	9—12	
Premature Birth	1	1	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	3
Congenital Malformations and Debility	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	2
Bronchitis and Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	2	6
Enteritis	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	1	—	4
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Other Causes	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	3
	4	1	—	2	7	2	1	5	2	4	21

B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE BOROUGH.

I.—(1) PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

A list is given at the beginning of the Report showing the above Officers.

Dr. Moodie, who had been Temporary Assistant Medical Officer of Health, left to take up another appointment at the beginning of March, and his place was taken by Dr. Siung at the end of that month. He left at the end of November and at the close of the year there was no one in the post. These changes, especially as the Assistants who have temporarily taken Dr. Hunter's place, have had no previous experience in Public Health, have had a somewhat unsettling effect on the work of the various clinics which they undertake, and the changes may have something to do with the somewhat smaller numbers that have attended.

Dr. Patton, who had been doing the eye work at a combined weekly clinic for Schools and Child Welfare, resigned in March, and his place was taken by Dr. Fraser, who, however, was only able to give one session per calendar month which is confined to refraction cases only.

Miss Wright was appointed an additional Health Visitor and School Nurse from the beginning of the year.

(2) SERVICES PROVIDED IN THE AREA.

No new services were provided during the year, and remain as detailed in previous Reports.

An innovation in regard to the dental supervision of infants and young children which was introduced is described in a short report by Mr. Hopkin, Dental Officer, who incidentally was successful in obtaining the Higher Diploma in Dentistry of the Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh.

(a) *Welfare Centres.*

The two Centres were held weekly, Sandhills Lane on Wednesdays and Kells on Fridays. The percentage, in relation to notified births, of children under one year of age who were brought to the Centres for the first time was 76%, a decrease of 9%.

The figures for the two Centres during the year were as follows:—

	<i>Sandhills Lane.</i>	<i>Kells.</i>	<i>Total Borough.</i>
No. of Sessions	51	51	102
No. of children 0-1 years of age who attended for the first time ...	195	126	321

No. of children 1-5 years of age who attended for the first time	...	26	28	54
Total attendance	...	2,370	2,294	4,664
Average attendance per Session	...	46	45	—

Milk Food in the form of dried milk was issued to the extent of 7,265lb.

(b) *Ante-Natal Clinic.*

The Ante-Natal Clinic has been held each Monday at the Sandhills Lane Centre, and the figures for attendances are as follows:—

Total attendances of expectant mothers	...	1,204
No. of expectant mothers who attended	...	352
Average attendance per Session	...	25

The number of expectant mothers who attended showed a decrease of 17, whilst the attendances went down by 241.

Domiciliary Ante-Natal Examinations.

The number of expectant mothers who were examined under this scheme during the year was 257 and the number of reports received was 356, 19 less than in 1942:—

First Reports	...	...	...	...	257
Second Reports	...	...	...	...	98
Third Reports	...	...	...	...	1

The cost to the Council for these reports was £89 os. od.

Consultative Ante-Natal Clinic.

Dr. Milne, the consulting gynaecologist, saw 23 new cases and did 8 re-examinations.

(c) *Artificial Sunlight Clinic.*

An Artificial Sunlight Clinic was held twice weekly throughout the year at the Sandhills Lane Centre.

During the year 57 babies attended, making a total of 346 attendances.

(d) *Dental Clinic.*

The figures for the dental work for the year are shown in the following table:—

	<i>Expectant Mothers.</i>	<i>Nursing Mothers.</i>	<i>Pre-School Children.</i>
Numbers specially referred to dental clinics	...	87	8
Numbers who actually attended	99	8	154
Numbers found to be in need of treatment	...	83	8
Numbers who received treat- ment	...	99	8
Total attendances	...	190	27
			206

Number of treatments

(a)	Fillings	...	...	
	(1) in temporary teeth	—	—	—	101	
	(2) in permanent teeth	24	—	—	—	
(b)	Number of teeth extracted	...	...	101	38	33
(c)	Scaling and Gum treatment	...	...	42	6	1
(d)	Other Operations	...	...	12	10	21
(e)	Number of administrations of (i) general anaesthesia	...	...	—	—	21
	(ii) Local anaesthesia	32	7	—	1	
(f)	Number of patients supplied with dentures	14	2	—	—	
(g)	Number of dentures supplied	...	...	20 full	1 full	—
				1 partial	1 repair	—

Of the above dentures, six were supplied at reduced cost-price, the remainder being paid for at full cost.

The following is a Report by Mr. Hopkin, Dental Officer :

DENTAL REPORT MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

On the instructions of the Medical Officer the whole procedure for the dental treatment of Expectant Mothers and Child Welfare cases was reviewed in the summer and important changes were made, which took effect from September.

Briefly, all expectant mothers, and children under five attending the Clinics, now receive a dental examination, whereas previously their attendance for this was usually only at their own request.

The expectant mothers are seen at their first attendance at the Clinic, and are advised as to the dental treatment required and given a talk on dental care. Unfortunately there is still a large number of mothers who will not have treatment.

The children are seen first at about 6 months when they are cutting their first teeth. The mother is given a talk about the baby teeth, their importance and how to look after them. Except in special cases the children do not require examination again until they are 2 years old, after which time they are examined at least twice a year.

The Expectant Mothers are all seen at Sandhills Lane Clinic on Monday afternoons while the children are seen at the Welfare Clinics at Sandhills Lane on Wednesday afternoons and at Kells on Friday, the attendance of the Dental Officer at Kells being one of the changes introduced in September.

It is hoped, as a result of this scheme, that eventually a big improvement will be seen in the dental condition of children entering school. The one factor that hampers the scheme and which will do so increasingly, is lack of time. Already it is often impossible to combine treatments and examinations in one session.

As the consent rate for the Mothers increases and as the number of children on the files for routine examination increases with every session, it will in a short time be impossible to treat all those requiring it on the present basis of three sessions a week.

Another difficulty is that of accommodation there being no separate room for the Dental Officer at Kells. A corner of the general waiting room is screened off, which gives some privacy but there are many inconveniences.

The details of treatment shown in the accompanying table are of chair side work only, but a large amount of time is of course taken up in giving preventive treatment, in the form of talks on the care of the teeth and there is no doubt that if these instructions are carried out, a large amount of dental disease in children can be prevented.

(e) *Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic.*

The Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic is held on the second and fourth Friday of each month at the Sandhills Lane Centre, which Child Welfare cases can attend along with School cases.

The following table shows the Child Welfare cases dealt with:

No. of new cases seen	19
Total cases seen	21
No. of cases referred for operation treatment	9
No. of cases referred for other treatment ...	—
No. of cases referred for observation	—
No. of cases operated on (all Tonsils and Adenoids)	8

(f) *Eye Clinic.*

An Eye Clinic was held each Thursday at Sandhills Lane during the first quarter of the year. Upon Dr. Fraser's appointment it was held on the first Thursday of each month. The following Child Welfare cases were dealt with:—

No. of new cases seen	7
Total cases seen	9
No. of Refractions	3
No. of other defects	1
Glasses prescribed	5
Glasses obtained	2

(g) *Orthopaedic Treatment.*

During the year fifteen children under school age made 23 attendances at the Orthopaedic Clinic. One child of this age was admitted to the Ethel Hedley Hospital, Windermere.

(h) *War-Time Nursery.*

The War-Time Nursery was carried on during the year for the reception of children under five years of age belonging to mothers who were engaged on War work, directly or indirectly.

The number of children on the register throughout the year was 41—12 (0-2 years of age) and 29 (2-5 years of age).

The attendance over the year averaged 16—five under 2 years and eleven 2-5 years. The average was considerably lessened by the poor attendance in the early part of the year, but attendances showed an improvement in the second half of the year.

The Nursery is established for forty places altogether, and whilst it has been run most successfully and with very great benefit to the children who have attended, it is disappointing that it has not been used to its full capacity. The training in healthy and hygienic habits and the social value of mixing with other children in a favourable environment are of the greatest value in laying foundations for after life, and such an institution on these lines is worthy of a prominent place in any health service and will, one hopes, if supported, become a permanent feature.

(i) *Hospitals.*

The position as regards hospital accommodation remains as stated in previous Reports.

II.—MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

(1)—MIDWIFERY AND MATERNITY SERVICES.

(a) *Midwives.* These are provided by the County Council as Local Supervising Authority, four full-time midwives being provided. They work in close co-operation with the Officers of the Local Authority and attend the weekly Ante-Natal Clinic, for the supervision of their cases. Copies of all Domiciliary Ante-Natal reports relating to their cases are supplied to them.

(b) *Maternity Services.* The Town Council continued their arrangement with the Whitehaven and West Cumberland Hospital by which maternity cases coming within the Council's Income Scale are received into that institution, through arrangements made by the Local Authority.

During the year 35 cases were admitted through the Local Authority, but altogether 139 Borough confinements took place in Hospital.

Puerperal Cases. By arrangement with the County Council, cases of Puerperal Infection occurring either in Hospital or in the Borough are transferred for treatment to Crozier Lodge, Carlisle. There were no cases so admitted during the year.

(c) *Health Visitors.* Five Health Visitors act also as School Nurses, each combining the duties of the two posts for an area including a group of schools. There were no changes in the personnel during the year.

The number of home visits showed an increase of 4,683 for the year, which allowing for the extra Health Visitor, meant an increase of 1,577 visits compared with the previous year.

The visits made by each visitor are detailed below:—

	Miss Berry	Miss Lodge	Miss Hodgson	Mrs. Messenger	Miss Wright	Total
First visits to children under one year of age	88	73	89	78	84	412
Re-visits to children under one year of age	995	1,136	1,303	1,187	899	5,520
Visits to children : 1—5 years of age	2,220	2,023	1,870	1,873	2,028	10,014
Visits to Expectant Mothers	112	111	66	93	95	477
Total	3,415	3,343	3,328	3,231	3,106	16,423

(d) *Child Life Protection.*—The Local Authority discharges the functions under Part VII of the Public Health Act, 1936, with reference to the supervision of children under nine years of age who are maintained for reward apart from their parents, through the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee. The Health Visitors and Mrs. Wignall are the designated Child Protection Visitors.

During the year, 3 children were on the Register and were kept under regular supervision, reports being submitted to each meeting of the Committee.

C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Sanitary matters are fully dealt with in a report by Mr. Lord, Sanitary Inspector, which is printed as an appendix, and only one or two comments are necessary.

Meat inspection has now come to be practically a full-time job for one Inspector, since under the scheme for centralised slaughtering, all slaughtering for Whitehaven, Workington, and Ennerdale is done at the Whitehaven abattoir. Owing to the enforced curtailment of certain sanitary activities—notably in connection with housing—the additional Sanitary Inspector can at present devote practically full time to meat inspection, but should the present scheme become a permanent one—and there are insuperable arguments in its favour—the question of whether Whitehaven could give the full time of one of two Sanitary Inspectors to this one duty would have to be considered.

The results of milk samples taken in the Borough during the year are shown in the Sanitary report.

As the duties and powers of Local Authorities in connection with milk production appear likely to be considerably changed in the near future, it seems an opportune time to review the findings of all samples taken in the Borough during the past seven years, the period during which the present grading system has been in force.

During that time 770 samples have been reported upon, and the results, as far as cleanliness are concerned, are as follows:—

<i>Tuberculin</i>				
	<i>Tested.</i>	<i>Accredited.</i>	<i>Ungraded.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
No. of samples ...	138	466	166	770
Satisfactory ...	87%	67%	48%	66%

In the case of ungraded milks, for which there is no official standard, the standard taken as satisfactory is that for accredited milks.

Whether the change over from the Local Authority to the Ministry of Agriculture will improve matters is a question which the future will decide, but one would have thought that a point of more practical importance would have been to set a standard of purity and to give powers to enforce it. That the Local Authority has been able, with the very limited powers it possesses, to maintain the standard shown by the above figures proves there has been no neglect of this duty in the past, and that a genuine effort has been made—so far as lay in its power—to ensure a clean milk supply to the public.

No other matters call for special comment. Housing difficulties are of necessity accumulating but it is hoped that these can be successfully tackled when conditions return to normal.

D.—PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER,
INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

I. NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS).

Infectious diseases notified during the year are shown by age-groups in the following table with the number admitted to Hospital and the number of deaths from these diseases.

Apart from an outbreak of Measles, there was nothing to note except the freedom which the community again enjoyed from diseases of an epidemic nature.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

DISEASE.		Total Cases Notified.	Under 1 Year.	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	Over 65	Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	44	—	—	4	7	3	16	7	4	3	—	—	—	6	—
Diphtheria	...	5	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	5	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	*10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	1	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia (Primary and Influenzal)	...	19	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	9	4	2	—	15 (all forms)
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	...	15	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	6	4	5	2	—
Cerebro-Spinal-Meningitis	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	...	444	26	43	60	65	74	165	10	1	—	—	—	—	1	3
Whooping Cough	...	11	3	1	2	2	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1

7 were notified from Whitehaven Hospital. 1 was notified from Glenholme Nursing Home.

SMALLPOX.

No case of Smallpox occurred during the year.

SCARLET FEVER.

Forty-four cases were notified during the year—a decrease of 37 as compared with the number for the previous year. Six cases were admitted to Hospital because of special circumstances, and there were no deaths, the cases being generally of a mild type.

DIPHTHERIA.

Three cases were notified during the year. Actually seven cases were admitted to Hospital, or suspected cases, and the diagnosis was confirmed in only two cases, both of whom recovered.

The notification rate was 0.13 per 1,000 of population as against 0.88 for the country as a whole, with a mortality rate of nil as against 0.03. It is worth noting that there has not been a death in Whitehaven since 1936.

DIPHTHERIA PROPHYLAXIS.

The scheme for the immunisation of children against Diphtheria continued in operation through the year, both through the Schools and through the Welfare Clinics for those under school age.

During 1943, a total of 874 new immunisations were completed. Five hundred and thirteen in the 0-5 years-of-age group, 357 in the 5-15 year groups, and 4 outside these groups.

In addition, a considerable number of children were re-immunised, as re-immunisation has now been made available for children who have been immunised in infancy and are now beginning school, and for older children whose immunisation was done more than four years ago.

In the case of the primary immunisations the "two-shot" method is employed with the dosage of 0.3 c.c. and 0.5 c.c. A.P.T. and for re-immunisation one "shot" of 0.5 c.c. is given.

The total number of children immunised since the scheme began in 1936 has now reached the total of 7,244, and these are shown by ages at the time of their original immunisation in the Table hereunder.

The position is highly satisfactory as regards the older children, but we still find great difficulty in getting sufficient of the younger infants immunised in spite of all propaganda, although the number of the latter done during the year does show a slight increase over any previous total, and the percentage for the group shows a considerable improvement.

PERCENTAGES OF CHILD POPULATION IMMUNISED :

(a) *0-5 years of age :*

The number of children in the age-groups 1939-1943 inclusive who were immunised on the 31st December, 1943, and of whom the Local Authority has details, was 1,013. The number of children in these groups was estimated at 2,000 (actually the Registrar-General has since supplied a figure 1,981, which is, for practical purposes, identical), so that the percentage immunised was 51, an increase of 15 per cent. over the number for the previous year. Actually since immunisation is not done until the child is one year old, the percentage immunised of those available would be 63.

(b) *5-15 years of age :*

The number of children in the age-groups 1929-1938 inclusive who were immunised on the 31st December, 1943, and of whom the Local Authority has details was 3,868. The number of children in these groups was estimated at 4,100 (actually the Registrar-General has since supplied a figure of 4,056, which is for practical purposes identical), so that the percentage immunised was 94 (95 on the Registrar-General's figure).

(c) *Over 15 years of age :*

The number over 15 years of age on the 31st December, 1943, who have been immunised was 2,363.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION PERSONS INOCULATED EACH YEAR FROM 1936-1943

Age in years on 31st Dec. of the corre- sponding year.	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	
0	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	Total inoculated aged under five years on 31st Dec- ember, 1943. 1,013
1	—	—	—	2	4	42	125	189	
2	—	—	2	12	13	77	130	139	
3	—	—	6	19	23	73	120	99	
4	66	58	30	29	42	96	109	86	
5	222	139	146	126	162	188	134	120	Total inoculated, aged 5—14 years on 31st December, 1943. 3,868
6	222	73	68	57	79	116	58	71	
7	145	60	45	30	52	62	34	29	
8	19	163	41	12	32	61	34	32	
9	1	250	36	28	23	44	33	30	
10	1	272	55	23	15	33	28	22	Total inoculated aged 15 years and over on 31st December, 1943. 2,363
11	205	258	58	25	27	28	21	17	
12	208	118	63	21	10	30	24	15	
13	211	62	52	20	10	17	17	13	
14	204	43	58	15	1	15	6	8	
15 and over	—	8	4	—	—	65	4	4	
Total each yr.	1,504	1,484	664	399	494	947	878	874	Grand Total 1936-1943. 7,244

ENTERIC FEVER.

No cases of Enteric Fever were notified during the year.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

Ten cases were notified, of whom 7 were notified from Whitehaven Hospital, one from Glenholme Nursing Home, and two from their homes. All the notified cases recovered.

PNEUMONIA.

Nineteen cases of Acute Primary, or Influenzal Pneumonia were notified. The number of deaths from Pneumonia (all forms) was six less than in the previous year.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

No cases were notified.

ERYSIPELAS.

Fifteen cases were notified, two of whom were admitted to Hospital. In one of these the diagnosis was not confirmed.

CEREBRO-SPINAL MENINGITIS.

No cases were notified, but four were admitted to Hospital as possible cases, and the diagnosis was confirmed in one. This case made a complete recovery.

MEASLES.

Four hundred and forty-four cases were notified. There was quite a sharp epidemic of Measles in the early part of the year. The notification rate was 19.74 per 1,000 of population, and the mortality rate 0.13 as compared with 9.88 and 0.02 respectively for England and Wales. Three children—two of whom were infants—died from this disease.

WHOOPIING COUGH.

Eleven cases were notified for the year with one death—an infant. Whilst Measles seems to be notified pretty generally, for some reason few notifications of Whooping Cough are received, and the number shown above does not anything like represent the true number of cases of this disease. The notification rate was 0.49 per 1,000 of population, and the mortality rate 0.04 as compared with 2.54 and 0.03 respectively for England and Wales.

II.—CANCER.

There were 31 deaths from Cancer during the year, a decrease of 11 compared with the number in 1942. The Mortality Rate from this disease was 1.38 per 1,000 of population as compared with the figure for the country as a whole of 1.90.

The sites of the lesions were as follows:—

<i>Males.</i>				<i>Females.</i>			
Larynx	...	...	1	Oesophagus	...	...	1
Stomach	...	...	1	Stomach	...	...	4
Pancreas	...	...	1	Liver	...	...	1
Liver	...	...	1	Colon	...	...	1
Colon	...	...	6	Breast	...	...	6
Rectum	...	...	1	Ovaries	...	...	1
Bladder	...	...	1	Uterus	...	...	2
—				—			
15				16			
—				—			

The average age at death of all cases was 62 years—of males 57, and of females 67.

III.—PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS, ETC.

No action was taken under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the prevention of blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes, nor was any action required under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, nor under the Public Health Act, 1936, Section 172.

IV. TUBERCULOSIS.

The following Table shows the new cases and mortality for the Borough of Whitehaven during 1943, by age-groups and sex:—

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
0—1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1—5	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
5—10	0	1	3	0	0	1	1	0
10—15	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
15—20	0	5	0	0	1	2	0	0
20—25	0	6	2	0	0	5	0	0
25—35	4	4	1	1	0	0	0	1
35—45	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	1
45—55	2	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
55—65	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
65 and upwards	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Total	13	19	8	1	4	10	1	2

Total new cases 41
Total Deaths 17

Death Rate per 1,000 of population:—

	<i>Whitehaven.</i>	<i>England and Wales.</i>
Respiratory	0.62	0.56
Non-Respiratory	0.13	0.11
All forms	0.75	0.67

Included in the above figures both for deaths and new cases, were four deaths that had not been previously notified, the proportion of non-notified deaths being 24 per cent.

New cases showed an increase, compared with 1942, of 3, and deaths again showed a decrease of 5. The Mortality Rate from Tuberculosis is the best that has been recorded for Whitehaven with the exception only of 1934, when 0.70 was returned.

SANATORIUM TREATMENT.

	In Institutions 1st Jan. 1943.	Admitted	Dis- charged.	Died.	In Institutions 1st Jan. 1944
PULMONARY CASES:					
Men	—	11	11	—	—
Women	4	16	9	—	11
Boys	7	2	—	—	9
Girls	—	—	—	—	—
NON-PULMONARY CASES:					
Men	1	1	—	—	2
Women	—	—	—	—	—
Boys	—	1	1	—	—
Girls	1	—	—	—	1
OBSERVATION CASES:					
Males	3	5	5	—	3
Females	1	3	1	—	3
Total ...	17	39	27	Nil	29

The above Table shows the number of Tuberculosis cases and Observation Tuberculosis cases from the Borough of Whitehaven that received Sanatorium treatment under the County Council Scheme during 1943. Altogether 56 cases from Whitehaven were treated in Sanatoria during the year.

The number of notified cases on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of 1943 was:—

Pulmonary—Males	...	...	...	...	113
—Females	...	...	...	...	111
Non-Pulmonary—Males	...	...	...	...	31
—Females	...	...	...	...	25
Total ...					<hr/> 280 <hr/>

APPENDIX.
SANITARY INSPECTOR'S
REPORT

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
81, LOWTHER STREET,
WHITEHAVEN.
31st January, 1944.

TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,
WHITEHAVEN.

Sir,

I beg to submit my twenty-first Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1943.

Sixty-six preliminary notices have been served during the year, and it has not been necessary to serve any statutory notices. Only work of an urgent nature has been asked for, and this has always been done without delay.

INSPECTIONS.

Visits to Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	668
„ „ Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	46
„ „ Factories	...	...	...	...	46
„ „ Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milk Shops	...	...	...	...	134
„ „ Food Preparing Premises	...	...	...	...	171
„ „ Shops	...	...	...	...	52
„ „ Schools	...	...	...	...	24
„ „ Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	...	42
„ „ Verminous Houses	...	...	...	...	30
„ „ Rat Infested Premises	...	...	...	...	70
„ „ Caravan attending Fairs	...	...	...	...	45
„ „ Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	12
„ „ Vessels in Harbour	...	...	...	...	58
Cases of Infectious Disease investigated	...	...	...	...	77
Visits after Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	50
Milk Samples obtained	...	...	...	...	149
Water Samples obtained	...	...	...	...	15
Drains Tested	...	...	...	...	24
Housing Inspection under Public Health Act	...	...	...	...	185
Interviews with Owners or Occupiers	...	...	...	...	405
Miscellaneous Visits and Inspections	...	...	...	...	282
Total					2,585

IMPROVEMENTS.

Obstructed Drains Cleansed	...	...	...	...	25
New Gullies Fixed	...	...	...	...	16
Drains Repaired or Relaid	...	...	...	...	17
New Pedestal W.C.'s Provided	...	...	...	...	8
New Flushing Cisterns Fixed	...	...	...	...	4
Flushing Cisterns Repaired	...	...	...	...	13

House Roofs Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	34
Plastering Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	14
New Windows Provided	...	...	...	...	...	13
New Spouting Fixed	...	...	...	...	...	4
New Floors Laid	...	...	...	...	...	1
Water Supply Improved	...	...	...	...	...	2
Yard Paving Relaid	...	...	...	...	...	5
Dust Bins Provided	...	...	...	...	...	18
Cowsheds Limewashed	...	...	...	...	...	50
Offensive Accumulations Removed	...	...	...	...	...	5
Nuisances from Animals Removed	...	...	...	...	...	2
Houses Disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	17
Houses Disinfested	...	...	...	...	...	4
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	9
Total						261

FACTORIES.

Ninety visits have been paid to factories, and the following contraventions were observed:—

Dirty Bakehouse Utensils	...	...	...	...	...	1
Defective Sanitary Conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	2
Dirty Sanitary Conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	1
Insufficient Sanitary Convenience	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total						5

In all cases, the work was carried out after verbal or written intimation was given.

SHOPS.

Fifty-two visits were paid to shops and no defects were observed.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action was taken during the year.

VERMINOUS HOUSES.

The number of houses found to be infested with vermin was 17, viz.:—

Council Houses	...	...	...	...	8
Other Houses	...	...	...	...	9

Three of the cases in Council houses were bad, and the skirting board, picture rails, etc., had to be removed and the houses fumigated with Cimex. In other cases, the houses were sprayed with Zaldecide.

HOUSING.

No systematic work has been done during the year, and inspections have been confined to premises in respect of which complaint has been received.

These invariably refer to properties scheduled as Clearance Areas, and defects or nuisances of an urgent nature have been remedied, but no work involving extensive repair or alteration has been attempted.

OVERCROWDING.

No accurate figure can be given regarding overcrowding. Owing to the difficult conditions existing at present, it is not possible to insist on the fixed standard being maintained, but wherever it is possible to do so, bad cases are dealt with by arranging an exchange of houses in the case of Council houses, and by arrangement with the owners where privately owned property is involved.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

There are 25 producers resident in the Borough, viz:—
1 tuberculin tested, 15 accredited, and 9 ungraded. In addition 13 outside producers, viz.:—3 tuberculin tested, 5 accredited, 4 ungraded and 1 pasteurised, supply milk either wholesale or retail in Whitehaven.

There are 30 retailers registered for the sale of milk, viz:

18 Producer-Retailers resident in the Borough.

4 Producer-Retailers resident outside the Borough.

8 Retailers resident inside or outside the Borough.

SAMPLES.

During the year 149 samples were submitted for bacteriological examination. Of these 30 were tuberculin tested, 77 accredited, 38 ungraded and 4 pasteurised. Of the 30 tuberculin tested, 25 were satisfactory, 4 failed to pass the Methylene Blue test, and 1 failed the Methylene Blue and B. Coli test.

Of the 77 accredited samples, 57 were satisfactory, 9 failed the Methylene Blue test, 6 contained B. Coli to an excessive degree, and 5 were unsatisfactory in both respects. Of the 38 ungraded samples, 22 reached accredited standard, 10 failed the Methylene Blue test, 1 the B. Coli test, and 5 failed both tests. All the pasteurised samples proved satisfactory.

The examinations show that 75 per cent. of the samples were satisfactory.

One hundred and thirty-four visits have been paid to the Cowsheds and Dairies, and generally they have been found satisfactory.

SLAUGHTERHOUSE AND MEAT INSPECTION.

The central slaughterhouse has been conducted satisfactorily. In addition to Whitehaven and the Ennerdale Rural District, Workington has now been included in the Whitehaven slaughtering area.

As in previous years, 100 per cent. inspection has been maintained. The addition of Workington to the area has of course increased the work of inspection considerably, with the result that one Inspector is employed practically full time at the slaughterhouse.

The relations between the members of the department with the slaughterhouse manager, the Wholesale Meat Agent, and the Retail Buying Committee have continued to be satisfactory.

The following table shows the number of animals slaughtered and the condemnations during the year.

	Cattle ex- cluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	2,889	1,102	4,065	31,749	162
Number inspected ...	2,889	1,102	4,065	31,749	162
<i>All Diseases Except Tuberculosis</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	10	28	43	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned. ...	30		2	60	10
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ...	1.00		0.73	0.32	6.19
<i>Tuberculosis only.</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	6	65	1	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned ...	369		4	—	5
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	11.02		0.12	—	3.70

OTHER ARTICLES OF FOOD SURRENDERED.

Miscellaneous Tinned Meats	...	...	...	...	...	3,263lb.
Miscellaneous Tinned Fruit and Vegetables	...	...	...	...	...	724lb.
Cheese	...	...	...	...	...	378lb.
Sausages	...	...	...	...	...	35lb.
Bacon	...	...	...	...	...	411lb.
Flour	...	...	...	...	...	607lb.
Split Peas	...	...	...	...	...	224lb.
Yeast	...	...	...	...	...	289lb.
Sweetbreads	...	...	...	...	...	65lb.
Miscellaneous Goods	...	...	...	...	...	73lb.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There is still only one offensive trade on the Register, viz.:—A Rag and Bone dealer.

Twelve visits have been paid to the premises and generally they have been conducted satisfactorily.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES AND HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS.

There is one common lodging house and three houses let in lodgings on the Register.

Forty-two visits have been paid and the premises found to be conducted satisfactorily.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. F. LORD,

Sanitary Inspector.

